GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2852
ANSWERED ON:09.08.2000
CRUELTIES TO POULTRY BIRDS
RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Poultry birds are subjected to many cruelties;

(b) if so, whether as a result of exposure of cruelties EU has decided to phase out caging;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether representations have been made by Animal Rights International on cruelties;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) whether the Government have made any assessment to find out the impact on cruelty after Prime Minister`s appeal?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SMT. MANEKA GANDHI)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b)&(c) The Council of the EU has issued a Council Directive 1999/74/EC on 19 July, 1999laying down minimum standards for the protection of laying hens. Article 4 of Chapter Iof this Directive lays down that the Members States shall ensure that from 1.1.2002 all newly built or rebuilt systems of production brought into use for the first time for laying hens shall comply, at least, with specific requirements regarding space, drinking water facilities etc. The Member States, however have been allowed to continue with the cage system till 1.1.2012 but with minimum requirements to be followed with regard to space, drinking water facility etc. as have been laid down. With effect from 1.1.2003 no cages may be built or brought into service for the first time.

(d) As per records available, no representation from Animal Rights International on cruelties has been received.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Prime Minister of India has written letter to Chief Ministers of all the States on 31 May,2000 to achieve the objective of more humane treatment to animals. A number of State Government have replied that they have received the letter and are looking into the matter. No assessment has been made so far as it is too early to assess the impact at this stage.